

DSW readies for B61 life extension

By Patrick McCoy

In support of the National Nuclear Security Administration's B61 program, the Stockpile Readiness Campaign has procured and installed several new machines to replace obsolete technology. The new machines, including the one shown at right, will help produce tooling and components. These machines are capable of capturing data electronically and receiving part programs through the distributed numerical control system, which will increase safety, lower costs and improve productivity.

First produced in 1966, the B61 remains one of the most complex and difficult manufacturing jobs ever performed at the Y-12 National Security Complex. Almost 40 years later, the B61 is

still one of the principal bombs in the U.S. nuclear weapons stockpile.

"This program shows how well different Y-12 organizations work together when faced with a stiff challenge. Both the schedule and budget were tight but the team made each milestone on time or early." — Malinda Conger, B61 NDE program manager

"The B61 is a difficult system to work on, but we are well on our way to resolving any age-related issues. We built the original and will use our lessons learned and new technologies to reduce, if not eliminate, the difficulties experienced in the original production runs," said Tom Thrasher, B61 program manager in the Directed Stockpile Work division.

The original manufacturing difficulties arose from the complex mix of materials and manufacturing



W. H. Chambers and Mike Allen of Manufacturing join Bill Reis, DSW manager, in inspecting a new multiaxis vertical milling center acquired by the Stockpile Readiness Campaign.

processes used to produce components. Over time, the B61 program produced several modifications to the original design.

The B61 is under evaluation for Life Extension Program status. As part of that evaluation, the Non-Destructive Evaluation program's use of radiography—as opposed to disassembly (and reassembly)—permitted refurbishment of a portion of the stockpile ahead of schedule. This success mitigated potential delays in finalizing the B61 LEP.

A final decision on the steps to refurbish the B61s in the stockpile is expected in 2003, with delivery of the first production unit projected for 2006.

Haute couture has nothing on Y-12

By Bill Wilburn

The show had lights, music and models working the runway. Evening gowns and Armani suits were conspicuously absent because hard hats, Tyvek suits and safety glasses were in the spotlight at Y-12's first Personal Protective Equipment Fashion Show.

The fashion show kicked off an injury elimination program designed to prevent an upsurge of injuries, such as sprains, strains, falls, insect bites (and even poison ivy) that often occurs both on-the-job and off-the-job during the summer months when more people are involved in outdoor activities.

Sponsored by Y-12's Facilities, Infrastructure and Services and Environment, Safety and Health organizations, the PPE Fashion Show took a light-hearted look at a serious safety message—personal protective equipment properly worn can and does prevent injuries. Approximately 1500 employees attended the event.

Different types of PPE and their proper uses were modeled and demonstrated by employees. While the show caused no fashion emergencies at Y-12, the different approach to educating people about PPE was extremely well received by the work force as evidenced by this comment from an employee: "The PPE Fashion Show was absolutely fabulous. I wish all safety meetings could be this much fun! My hardhat is off (but just for a minute) to all those who were involved."

As part of its Injury Elimination Program, Y-12 also held a series of workshops to discuss safety and wellness programs, physical fitness, ergonomics and body mechanics.



BWXT Y-12 employees Sam Burris, Melissa Portwood and Anthony Cannon on the runway at the Personal Protective Equipment Fashion Show.

Y-12 receives Award of Distinction from SBA

By Melissa Leinart

BWXT Y-12 has received the Small Business Administration's 2003 Award of Distinction for exceeding all socioeconomic goals in each category during fiscal year 2002.

BWXT Y-12 President and General Manager Dennis Ruddy said the award is very gratifying because "less than two percent of the SBA's large contractors are recipients of the award." The award recognizes federal contractors that have exceptional small business subcontracting programs.

The award was presented by Mitchell Morand, SBA's area director for government contracting, at the Annual Socioeconomic and Diversity Awards program held jointly with Bechtel Jacobs Company.

In turn, BWXT Y-12 honored four local businesses for their outstanding performance in providing products and services as part of Y-12's socioeconomic and diversity procurement program. Businesses honored were C.S. Engineering, Navarro Research, Haselwood Enterprises and VWR Scientific.

C.S. Engineering was named the small business of the year; Navarro Research and Engineering and Southeast Fuels were named the small disadvantaged businesses of the year. Haselwood Enterprises was selected as the woman-owned, small business of the year.

VWR Scientific was honored as the large business of the year for partnering with a small local company within a Histori-

cally Underutilized Business Zone (HUBZone) to provide laboratory supplies and chemicals to BWXT Y-12.

Tennessee State University was honored as the Minority Education Institution of the Year for excellent performance in process system design for a Y-12 training tool. Since June 2001, TSU has participated in a "Mentor Protege" agreement with BWXT Y-12.



Bob Waters (center) and Dennis Ruddy (right) accept the award of distinction from SBA's Mitchell Morand.

Reorganization begins with Manufacturing division

By Bill Wilburn

In June BWXT Y-12 began restructuring the company. The Manufacturing division will be the first organization to undergo redesign. Over the coming months, remaining divisions will follow in this process.

This reorganization will improve communications among employees and management by reducing layers of management, increasing the span of control for managers and supervisors and enhancing overall efficiency.

Here are the key points of the reorganization.

- The redesigned Manufacturing organization structure was approved by the president.
- Manufacturing employees met with the division manager to learn of the new organizational design and the new positions available.
- Currently, only management and supervisory positions are impacted.
- All available management and supervisory positions below the division manager-1 level will be posted in Manufacturing.
- All exempt management and supervisory employees must apply for at least one position and not more than three positions.
- Only employees within Manufacturing can apply for Manufacturing positions. For employees involved in the subsequent reorganizations, the same process will apply.
- Both exempt and non-exempt employees in Manufacturing may apply.
- No layoffs are anticipated as a result of this reorganization process. However, management employees who do not bid on at least one position will be presumed to have resigned as of the effective date of the reorganization.
- The division manager-1 level positions will be selected by the division manager and approved by the president.
- The advertising and interview process will be administered through the Y-12 Staffing organization. Human Resources will conduct work sessions on resume writing and interviewing. Job postings and applicable forms will be available on the Human Resources Web site.
- Trained interviewers, including HR personnel, non-Manufacturing line managers and the hiring manager in Manufacturing, will conduct the interviews.
- Final candidate selections will be made by an independent review team consisting of representatives from Legal, Equal Employment Opportunity and non-Manufacturing management personnel.
- Persons may be moved into positions that will be either promotions or demotions. Those being promoted will be promoted to the level of the job in phases. No one's salary will be reduced.
- All candidates selected will be on a 90-day probationary period.
- "Surplus" employees will be assigned to individual contributor jobs either within Manufacturing or other Y-12 organizations.
- Required training will be made available to enable employees to meet the skill requirements of the positions.

Workshop gives visibility to Oak Ridge's security technologies

By Heidi Spurling

At the recent Institute of Nuclear Materials Management's Safeguards and Security Workshop held in Oak Ridge, Rep. Zach Wamp announced that a congressional subcommittee field hearing to address technology for homeland security would take place in Oak Ridge on June 16. This announcement, coupled with the workshop's success, gives more visibility to the breadth and depth of technologies available in Oak Ridge to address homeland security needs.

The purpose of the workshop, which was co-hosted by the Y-12 National Security Complex and Oak Ridge National Laboratory, was to address technological and methodological solutions for today's security issues. Workshop topics included new vulnerability assessment technologies, Oak Ridge's Safeguards Training Center and advances in surveillance and detection.

The workshop attracted more than 125 attendees, 32 presenters and 10 vendors from all over the country. In addition to Rep. Wamp, guest speakers included Major General Jerry Humble, USMC (Retired), director of Tennessee's Office of Homeland Security, and Dennis Ruddy, BWXT Y-12 president and general manager.

The local workshop planning committee included Chris Pickett, Robert Ceo, Natalie Crippen, Michael Ellis, Victor Laster, Debbie Matteo, Dave Richardson, John Sorbo and Sherry Townsend of BWXT Y-12; Teressa McKinney of UT-Battelle and Debra McNeilly of the National Nuclear Security Administration.

INMM was formed in 1958 to encourage research and establish standards in the field of nuclear materials management and to improve the qualifications of those engaged in nuclear materials management and safeguards. For more information, visit the Web site of the Central Region Chapter of INMM (<http://www.y12.doe.gov/inmm/>).



Chris Pickett (right), Sensor Systems group leader, presents a plaque of appreciation to Rep. Zach Wamp for his support of and participation in the Institute of Nuclear Materials Management's 2003 Safeguards and Security Workshop held recently in Oak Ridge.

ES&H personnel respond quickly to contain fire, initiate recovery

By Stuart Hames

When a glovebox fire in Building 9202 ignited on April 15, some 40 personnel from the Environment, Safety and Health organization showed they were well prepared and equipped to respond to the incident.

During the first minutes of the response while building occupants were evacuated, firefighters and emergency medical technicians extinguished the fire, treated affected employees and stabilized the scene. Residents of buildings located east of Building 9202 were instructed to shelter in place. After the Plant Shift Superintendent activated the Emergency Operations Center (a central control area equipped to coordinate emergency response), assigned responders quickly assumed their posts and began working on the situation.

Simultaneously, the PSS activated the Technical Support Center. Representatives from Radiological Control, Industrial Safety, Industrial Hygiene and Fire Protection

Engineering, along with Technology Development staff from Building 9202, gathered information on the incident and began triage. Over the next several hours, this group developed a recovery strategy and action plan, working until 2 a.m. the following day to tentatively stabilize the system and prevent further damage.

For the next few days, ES&H personnel worked with Technology Development to safely reconfigure the glovebox system, and, by the early morning hours of April 19, they had stabilized the system. ES&H professionals continue to support repair efforts and incident investigation.

"Using the triage concept and teams of subject matter experts representing a wide range of expertise and backgrounds, recovery from this event was a success," said Dale Stewart of Industrial Safety. "Involving the right people up front is one of the keys to successful recovery from unplanned events."

Y-12 employees, programs receive DOE awards of excellence

By Melissa Leinart

Brigadier General Ronald Haeckel, the principal deputy assistant administrator for military application at the National Nuclear Security Administration, recently presented more than 200 Y-12 employees with U.S. Department of Energy Weapons Program Recognition of Excellence awards for their contributions to the nation's nuclear weapons program.

The DOE Weapons Program of Excellence Award was created to reward laboratory and plant employees directly associated with the Nuclear Weapons program. The award was established by Major General Bill Hoover, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Military Applications at DOE, in the early 1980s to give special recognition to those people directly associated with the stockpile modernization program.

Those honored are listed below.

Applied Model-Based Engineering and Manufacturing Team

Donna Bennett
Carolyn Fogelman
Sam Hart
Layton Howell Jr.
James May
Jeniece May
John Owens
Larry Roberson
Wesley Sims
Deborah Sumner

Procurement of High Purity Depleted Uranium Facility

Gary Eckert
Becky Eddy *
Larry Frye
Matthew Marsicek
Nolan Moore
Raymond Ortiz
James Rollins
James Thompson Jr.
J. E. Thompson
Yvonne Tracy

Ceramic Grinding Revitalization

Shelia Churneski
Robert Dearstone
W. Lloyd Duke

Paul Goranson
Robert Gray
Richard Igou
Bron Johnston
Robert Packett
Robert Neal
Charles Queen Jr.
Samuel Robinson
Lisa Stinton
Larry Woodard

Contour Inspection Programming System

Luther Galyon
Robert Hewgley Jr.
Layton Howell Jr.
Matthew Johnson
Edward Klages
Keith St. Onge

Distributed Numerical Control Modernization

Louis DeMarotta
Paul DeMint
W. Lloyd Duke
Robert Hewgley Jr.
Layton Howell Jr.
W. Gerry Johnson
Robert Sharp
Deborah Williams
N. Doug Woodall Jr.

Development of a Criticality Safety Practical Factors Training Module

F. Edward Kendall *
Kenneth Lewis
Rodney Patton
Lorry Ruth Jr.
Garland Sharp

Y-12 Full Participation Emergency Exercise

W. Michael Arendale *
Natasha Blair
Rhonda Bogard
John Bolling
Olin Brewer
Donnie Eblen
Larry Garrett †
Robert Gee
Gary Hartmaker
Scott Hawks
Ralph Honeycutt Jr.
John Kyle
Robert Presley
William Scheib
Pitt Tarrant †
Nancy Underwood
Terry Wilder
Warren Willis

O-Wing Rolling and Forming Operating Availability

Vince Brown
William Hughes
Arlie Jenkins
Terry Shope
Ronald Uglow
Stanley Watkins *

Production Quality Information Web Site

Terri Ball
Mark Barth
Gary Bowers
James Burkhardt Jr.
Vaughn Chase
Michael Glassman *
Robert Luttrell
Robert Painter
James Snyder
Alan Van Hull
Deborah Williams
Robert Wilson

Cell Room Ceiling Project

Donald Bohrman
William Bowman
David Bunton
Cheryl Chandler
Ernest Lamb
Robert Mashburn
David Mosby
James Nall ‡
Stacey Rathke
Robert Richesin
Tim Sigmon

Special Test Material Processing

Rick Collier *
Linda Collins
Reed Durham
Donald Merkel
Robert Owens
F. Alan Page
Larry Pender
Michael Poore
James Vandergriff

Disassembly and Evaluation of Surveillance Test Units

Boyd A. Bivens
Carl Burns Jr.
Rick Collier *
Thomas Duncan
Thomas Frankenberg
Dirk Gardner
Amy Harkey
Jack Harris
Jimmy Henley
Stephen Hicks
Marie Hodge
Peggy Hughes
Edward Johnson Jr.
Oscar King
H. Ray Lewis
Bonnie McCaskill
Lonnice (Lonny) Moon
Robert Packett
Johnny Parks
Jerry Price
John Rogers
John Royster
Judy Russell
James Spradlen
Robert Vaught
Richard Watts

**Stockpile Readiness
Campaign NNSA 90-Day
Assessment**

Anne Backus
Louis DeMarotta Jr.
Karen Dobbs
Thomas Insalaco
Joel Lesch
Mark Livesay *
Patrick McCoy
Kathie McKeehan
Glenda Neal
Robert Riepe

**Stockpile Surveillance
Stewardship Team**

Gregg Bass
Carl Cardwell
Ed Churnetski
Rick Collier *
Brian Gullett
Byron Hawkins
Peggy Hughes
George Larson
Steve McGhee
Robert Packett
Cotton Plemons
Mark Richey
Lisa Thompson
Tony Vermillion
David Waldrop
Ben Witt

**B61-7 Augmented Non-
Destructive Evaluation
Program**

Vaughn Chase
Rick Collier *
Junior Collins
Malinda Conger
Stacy Grant
Joy Grubb
Jim Hackworth
Terry Holder
Mark Hopkins
Denise Huffine
Jim Hummel
Jim Norvell
Arnette Peters
John Stanley
Mike Waldrop
Ben Witt
Andrea Zava

**Completion of 9202 Labora-
tory Capital Projects**

Lynn Bostic
Bob Buell
Bruce Campbell
Gene Lozyniak
Art Mallard Jr.
Dennis Moorman
Charles Queen Jr.
Lisa Stinton

**Casting Production Methods
Development**

Mitch Ammons
Julie Ezold
Mike Hammons
Matt Johnsen
Lloyd Jollay
Ed Klages
Brad Martel
Kathy Martin
Alan Moore
Jim Norvell
Kevin Sanford
Mark Shreeve
Michael Thress

Yankee Team Concept

Bobby Beaty †
Gary Brandon †
Steve Combs
Joe Cunningham
Larry Garrett †
Bruce Hunter †
Jeff Larosa †
Richard Stooksbury †
Kathy Szymanski
Joan Valentine †
Bob Walker
John Woods

**Installation/Verification
of PARTISN on the
MANHATTAN Computer**

Susan B. Turner

**Learn At Lunch Technol-
ogy Briefings**

Donna Bennett
Julie Moore

**Manufacturing/Tooling
Process Upgrade**

Teri Ball
Vaughn Chase
Tom Crisp
Celina Forester
Robert Luttrell
Brad Martel
Jim Norvell
Paul Sooter
Daniel Tracy

**Product Quality Information
Web Site**

Teri Ball
Vaughn Chase
Bud Leete
Robert Luttrell
Bob Painter
Alan Van Hull
Debra Williams
Rob Wilson

**Rackable Can Storage Box
Drop Test**

Ronnie Catoe *
Pete Etzler
Kim Handy
Mark Haskew
Allan Krass

Ron Kroon
Jim Pease
Bob Rettberg
Huston Singletary
Dennis Tollefson
Gene Walker
Jim Younkin

**Cost Savings for Enriched
Uranium Operations Carbon
Samples**

Cathy Burdette
David Keebler
Caney Knauth
Rick Slagle
Ray Wise

**Weapons Materials Require-
ments and Sources Team**

Shirley Cox
Terri Hall
Bud Henderson
Richard Hodges
Bud Leete

* National Nuclear Security Administration

† Wackenhut Services, Inc. – Oak Ridge

‡ Oak Ridge National Laboratory



Brigadier General Ronald Haeckel, left, presents Susan B. Turner of Engineering (with Buddy Conner, deputy general manager) the DOE award of excellence for Installation/Verification of PARTISN on the MANHATTAN Computer.

Y-12 develops training system for machinists

By Melissa Leinart

An anywhere, anytime training system that allows machinists to learn, practice and test in a computer-generated simulation environment has been demonstrated at the Y-12 National Security Complex and is now ready for pilot testing.

The system, called the Applied Instructional System for Machinists, AISM, was developed jointly through a Cooperative Research and Development Agreement between BWXT Y-12 and Immersive Engineering. Immersive Engineering is a computer- and Internet-based learning solutions company specializing in simulation-based E-learning.

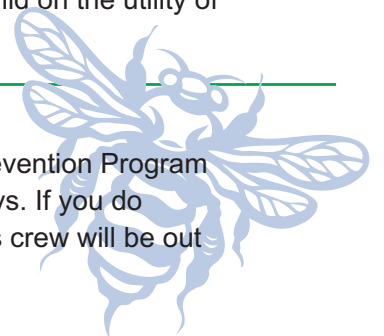
"Y-12 currently uses unique machine tool controllers and, through the Stockpile Readiness Campaign, will be investing in new controllers. This complicates both training and learning, making AISM a valuable tool in modernization," said Dennis Miller of the Oak Ridge Center for Manufacturing and Materials Science.

"With AISM, machinists can quickly adapt to new machine and controller technologies, better evaluate problems with

existing machines and controllers and provide for a more flexible work force. As Y-12 begins the modernization of its facilities, AISM will begin the modernization of manufacturing methods through knowledge preservation, simulated training, skills enhancement training and design testing," Miller said.

The U.S. Department of Energy Pantex Plant near Amarillo, Texas, is working with Y-12 to evaluate AISM's use in Pantex's E-fabrication visioning for modernization, according to Steve Hallett, program manager at Pantex. Hallett said AISM "will allow us to evaluate the skills of our machinists, train them and ultimately qualify them, all in a virtual environment. This approach will dramatically reduce time and expense and, more importantly, improve safety. Pantex will continue to work with Y-12 and Immersive Engineering to build on the utility of AISM."

System will highlight partnership between Y-12 and Pantex



Take the sting out of summer—call the Buzz Busters Hotline

Nothing ruins a fine summer day like a wasp or yellow jacket sting! That is why the Summer Injury Prevention Program has set up the Buzz Busters Hotline. Watch out for nests under the eaves of buildings and along walkways. If you do happen to spot a colony, call 574-0480 and let Sam White know the location of the problem. The grounds crew will be out to spray that day or, if it's in the evening, the next morning.

Remember, "Who you gonna call? BUZZ BUSTERS!"

Streetman honored by the U.S. Department of Energy

Kibbee D. Streetman of Y-12's Technical Computing organization is the 2003 recipient of the U.S. Department of Energy's Charlene Douglass Memorial Award for his "outstanding contributions in the national interest in the field of information systems and cyber security."

The citation for the award notes that Streetman has "tirelessly dedicated himself to multiple roles as project leader, technical consultant, program development leader and teacher." He has worked on projects to enhance information security not only for DOE but also for the Department of Defense, the National Institute of Standards and Technology, the Internal Revenue Service and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Streetman, an Oak Ridge resident, has worked in DOE's facilities for 41 years, the last six years at Y-12. He has a national reputation in encryption technologies. He is a member of the American Cryptogram Association, a national organization whose members solve cryptograms as a hobby, and is ranked as one the nation's top cryptogram solvers.



Can I donate vacation to a coworker who hasn't used up their personal leave?

Answer: Current year and deferred vacation (but not banked), as well as maximum paid personal leave eligibility, must be taken before using donated vacation. More information on this topic may be obtained from the *Vacation Donation Policy*, Y11-115, or you may call Employee Relations at 576-8426 with any questions.

New Hope Pond Road access hours changing

As of May 27, the New Hope Pond Road entrance is closed west of Post 13 to pedestrian/vehicular traffic between 8:15 a.m. and 3:15 p.m. Employees entering or exiting the plant will need to use the Bear Creek Road entrance during those hours. Vendors will be allowed to access New Hope Pond Road to enter through Post 13. The New Hope Pond Check Station will be open from 6:00–8:15 a.m. and 3:15–4:15 p.m. to allow employees to enter and exit the Complex.

BWXT Y-12/ATLC team tops in relay

The BWXT Y-12/Atomic Trades and Labor Council team, co-captained by Debbie Hunter and Sherry Barrow, was the top fundraiser in the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life in Oak Ridge. The team raised \$17,143, which is a record for Y-12 and the relay. This is the fourth time in five years the Y-12 team has garnered first place. Y-12ers Wanda Gheen and Hunter were the top individual fundraisers. This is the fifth consecutive year a Y-12 member has been tops. At right, Joyce Disney, Hunter, and Carl "Bubba" Scarbrough lead the team in the opening lap.



Rush to schedule and integrate your fitness plan!

With the U.S. Surgeon General reporting some 300,000 deaths a year associated with obesity, sitting at a desk for eight or more hours a day may be riskier than you think. Diet is important for keeping a healthy weight, but exercise is key to maintaining the muscles you need to complete everyday tasks safely.

What can you do to fight the battle of the bulge and remain fit for desk duty? If you come to the 2003 BWXT Y-12 Safety Expo, you can find out first-hand.

Representatives from The Rush Fitness Complex are teaming up with the Planning and Integration organization to present "Rush to Plan and Integrate Your Safety." Members of the fitness group will be demonstrating aerobic and muscle-building exercises and equipment. They also will be conducting body fat analysis, which is one indicator of your fitness level and a predictor of your correct body weight.

So what is the connection between Planning and Integration and exercise and safety? "Planning is a critical first step to completing any task safely," said P&I expo committee leader Freddie Williams. "A lot of people think they cannot get hurt in an office—that's just not true."

Despite never having exhibited at the expo, Williams said Manager Jim Holland is excited about their partnership with a non-Y-12 entity and believes the team can help employees and others recognize the safety pitfalls of an administrative setting. "We hope we can give people information and ideas to use at work and take home with them as well," he said.

You can check out this exhibit and hundreds of others at the 2003 BWXT Y-12 Safety Expo on July 30 from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Oak Ridge Mall. For more information concerning exhibits, contact Debbie Reed at 241-8358 or e-mail zda@y12.doe.gov.

Service Anniversaries – June

42 years

Engineering: James N. Abele

41 years

Engineering: Kibbee D. Streetman

35 years

Engineering: James A. Basford, David W. Post, William H. Rasnick

Facilities, Infrastructure and Services: William D. Hazelwood, Jesse McDonald, Harold D. Pelfrey, William M. Weaver

Manufacturing: William G. Johnson, John D. Watkins

Quality Assurance: Ralph S. Leete Jr.

30 years

Engineering: Robert W. McGaffey

Facilities, Infrastructure and Services: Larry T. Petrowski

Manufacturing: James F. Braden, Elizabeth L. Cantrell, Jerry L. Hall Sr.

Quality Assurance: Patricia T. Efurd, Charles K. Stalnaker

25 years

Administration and Purchasing: Sharon Gasaway, Marcella S. Willis

Engineering: Donna F. Bennett, Ronald A. Cain, Jeanne M. Groppe, Frederick L. Markham, Melburn L. Patterson Jr.

Environment, Safety and Health: Robert L. Cox

Facilities, Infrastructure and Services: Kyle Carpenter, Hugh R. Kelly, Lauren L. Foust, Janice Y. Scott,

Manufacturing: James R. Chandler, Raymond F. Clark, Willene G. Griffin, Robert A. Joseph Jr., Robert C. May, Mamie E. Underwood

Projects: Frank P. McHenry Jr.

Quality Assurance: Michael W. Darnell

20 years

Administration and Purchasing: Carolyn H. Miles

Engineering: Jeffrey T. Cleveland, Paul D. Demint, Carolyn H. Fogelman, Timothy W. Hickerson, Edward J. Klages, Roger L. Lawson

Environment, Safety and Health: Sandra P. Lyles, Stanley L. Roberts

Facilities, Infrastructure and Services: Sheila D. Culpepper, Roger L. Yeary

Financial Management: Mark B. Keck, Marilyn R. Presley

Human Resources: Olga P. Henley, Laura D. Lyles

Manufacturing: Noel R. Helton, James F. Justice, Mark R. Stair

On your mark, get set, restart!

By Heidi Spurling

We may have learned about the three R's in school, but when it comes to nuclear operations at U.S. Department of Energy sites, a different set applies: readiness preparation, review and restart.

Achievement of the first R—readiness preparation—was discussed at the third in a series of readiness workshops hosted by BWXT Y-12. Representatives from BWX Technologies; Bechtel; the DOE Office of Environment, Safety and Health, Office of Environmental Management and the National Nuclear Security Administration; the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board and DOE site offices and contractors gathered at the Y-12 National Security Complex to share planning methods and practices that have been applied successfully to the readiness process.

Workshop participants also talked about using management self-assessment more effectively as a tool to gauge readiness. Readiness preparation includes those steps necessary for line management to certify the safe restart (or, in some cases, startup) of nuclear facilities or activities.

"If we can share what we know about what works and what doesn't work, we can get a process in place that more predictably helps us achieve readiness," said Bill Hicks, a consultant to NNSA Headquarters.

Buddy Conner, BWXT Y-12 deputy general manager, emphasized the impact of the failed readiness review—missed program milestones and increased costs.

The participants discussed the elements for successful readiness preparation: a well-defined scope of work, tie-in of project management principles, strong line management leadership and the right mix of integrated support personnel to execute the work.

Joe Crociata, DNFSB liaison, emphasized that the "key success factors are an experienced, knowledgeable readiness leader; a solid, yet flexible, readiness plan and a disciplined approach to actually execute the plan."

The participants appreciated the forum for sharing lessons learned, and they agreed upon several opportunities for improvement, including training and qualifying personnel for the readiness process, incorporating Integrated Safety Management fundamentals and developing performance-based measures of success.



Buddy Conner (standing), deputy general manager, addresses participants of the third readiness process workshop hosted by Y-12 as Bill Hicks (left), an NNSA consultant, and Y-12's Joe Crociata listen. "I hope that as a result of these workshops we come up with a way to better spend taxpayers' dollars during readiness preparations for startups," said Conner.

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